

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.
Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of claims

Claim 1. (previously presented). A method for identifying an agent that binds to a bacterial RNAP homologous RNA-exit-channel amino-acid sequence in a bacterial RNAP, comprising the steps of: (a) preparing a reaction solution including the agent to be tested and a bacterial RNAP that contains a bacterial RNAP homologous RNA-exit-channel amino-acid sequence; and (b) detecting at least one of the presence, extent, concentration-dependence, or kinetics of binding of the agent to the homologous bacterial RNAP RNA-exit-channel amino-acid sequence.

Claims 2-3. (Cancelled).

Claim 4. (previously presented). The method of claim 1 wherein the bacterial RNAP is *Escherichia coli* RNAP.

Claim 5. (previously presented). The method of claim 1 wherein the bacterial RNAP is *Bacillus subtilis* RNAP.

Claim 6. (previously presented). The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of: detecting at least one of the presence, extent, concentration-dependence, or kinetics of binding of the agent to a second bacterial RNAP that contains a derivative of a bacterial RNAP homologous RNA-exit-channel amino-acid sequence having at least one substitution, insertion, or deletion.

Claims 7-8. (Cancelled).

Claim 9. (previously presented). The method of claim 6 wherein the second bacterial RNAP is a derivative of *Escherichia coli* RNAP.

Claim 10. (previously presented). The method of claim 6 wherein the second bacterial RNAP is a derivative of *Bacillus subtilis* RNAP.

Claim 11. (previously presented). The method of claim 1 further comprising comparison of: (a) at least one of the presence, extent, concentration-dependence, or kinetics of binding of the agent to the bacterial RNAP, and (b) at least one of the presence, extent, concentration-dependence, or kinetics of binding of the agent to a eukaryotic RNAP.

Claim 12. (Previously presented). The method of claim 11 wherein the eukaryotic RNAP is a human RNAP.

Claim 13. (Previously presented). The method of claim 11 wherein the eukaryotic RNAP is a human RNAP II.

Claims 14-81. (Cancelled)